



THE
JEWISH
DAILY

FORWARD

MARCH 1984

ADAR I / ADAR II 5744

Rabbi Search Committee

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE RECENTLY. We have placed an ad in over a dozen Jewish and Gay/Lesbian publications around the world. We have prepared and sent to the UAHC Placement Bureau a description of our Congregation that will be used to inform prospective candidates about us. After many hours of research and analysis we prepared and submitted to the Va'ad a Rabbinic Job Description which was thoroughly reviewed and approved. We will now begin the task of evaluating applications and preparing to conduct interviews with candidates.

RABBI WANTED Part-time Position

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV SAN FRANCISCO

Dynamic, 200-member synagogue with particular outreach to the gay & lesbian community.

Inquire to: Search Committee, Cong. Sha'ar Zahav,
220 Danvers, San Francisco, CA 94114

• Member, UAHC •

Rabbinic Job Description

POSITION FOR PART-TIME RABBI: Our Congregational description reflects the diversity of our members and their backgrounds. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has striven for many years to accommodate these many traditions, practices and views. Together with the new rabbi, we seek to continue to develop and implement creative approaches to meeting the needs of our members to identify and affiliate with both the Jewish and gay/lesbian communities. Our rabbi, therefore, will be an individual who will encourage and guide us in making our Jewish heritage a meaningful and active force in our lives.

Some of the special qualities we seek in our rabbi include particular sensitivity to gay/lesbian issues and support for the goals of feminism and egalitarianism, both within and without the Congregation. Our rabbi will need to be recep-

(continued on page 8)

Megillah Madness Returns

ON SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 17, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will once again be celebrating the festival of Purim with all the style and joy that is our own. We will be gathering at the Swedish-American Hall, 2174 Market Street (near Sanchez), at 8 p.m. for Havdalah and a short Ma'ariv service.

Our Purim carnival will follow as Megillah Madness II gets underway. There will be game booths, food and drink, our Annual Hamentaschen Bake-off, dancing, and, of course, lots of fun. Madam Zonga has even threatened a return engagement from last year's Megillah Madness to see through all the clouds of time and foresee the futures of all.

Anyone familiar with the Purim festival knows that the reading of the story of Purim, the reading of the Megillah, is an integral part of the festival. Anyone who participated in last year's Megillah Madness also knows that the traditional Megillah can be interpreted in several rather untraditional ways. We are pleased to announce that CSZ's famed Ritual Committee has been hard at work for months researching the *true* Megillah, and will be presenting this latest version to us all on that evening.

Finally, in keeping with the tradition of Purim, all those attending are encouraged to rummage through their closets for the perfect Purim costume. This is the one night of the year that even our Jewish heritage encourages us to dress up and carry on. The challenge is yours. Costumes will be judged on the basis of originality, beauty, creativity, historical authenticity and just plain fun.

So, mark Saturday, March 17 in your datebooks. Be sure to tell you friends about our celebration as well, since this will be an evening of fun and festivity that you will definitely want to share.

Congregational Seder

OUR ANNUAL SECOND NIGHT CONGREGATIONAL SEDER will be held on Tuesday, April 17, at Golden Gateway Holiday Inn (Van Ness Avenue between Pine and California Streets). This event is always a highlight of our Synagogue's year. New recipes are being researched to provide you with the best in kosher-style and vegetarian

(continued from page 5)

Va'ad Report

THE FEBRUARY VA'AD MEETING was held on Monday evening, February 13 at the Synagogue. Major topics of discussion included the many exciting events upcoming on our Synagogue calendar.

Purim is just around the corner, and plans are underway to make Megillah Madness II as wonderful as the first one. Be sure to keep your calendars marked with the date — Saturday evening, March 17!

Nancy Meyer and Don Albert are busy coordinating this year's Pesach seder, to be held at the Holiday Inn on Van Ness Avenue. This has always been one of our best attended functions, and we hope that all of you will join us in celebrating once again this year. The date is Tuesday evening, April 17.

Talia Shafir and Frank Hyman, co-chairs for the upcoming Dedications weekend, presented tentative plans for our celebration. As details become known, the information will appear in the *Forward*.

The Rabbi Search Committee presented a job description to the Va'ad, which was approved. In related news, the Va'ad voted to accept the finance committee's recommendation that the rabbi's salary and benefits not exceed \$22,500 per year. This allows the Rabbi Search committee to

(continued on page 5)

"From India to Ethiopia" — The Celebration of Purim

PURIM IS A TERRIFIC HOLIDAY. How often can you be religiously observant by dressing in costume, making noise during services, acting bawdy and getting drunk? It's also a great time for us to celebrate our dual heritage as gay and lesbian Jews, and not just because it's an excuse to party.

The purported events that we commemorate on Purim are almost certainly imaginary. None of the characters or events have ever been mentioned by any historians, and you wouldn't think they could ignore such goings-on in a kingdom which allegedly stretched "from India to Ethiopia". The idea of a Persian king choosing his bride by a beauty contest is absurd. Such matches were painstakingly arranged years in advance. The long coincidences in the narrative would make any teacher of fiction-writing wince. The only elements in the whole story that might be believable are a Minister of State who would use hatred and divisiveness to advance himself, and a king who would banish his queen for disobedience. (Most people believe that Vashti was killed, although the Megillah never actually says so. I prefer to think that she was conveniently sent away and founded a women's community out of the reach of Achashverosh.)

So, then, if it's all just a story, what are we celebrating? And why is it important, particularly to us? Well, we do need an excuse to kick up our heels as Spring returns, and the silliness of the Purim celebration is ideally suited to the season. The serious aspects of Purim unfold with dramatic irony in the Book of Esther. King Achashverosh has Queen Vashti sent away to assuage his puffed-up masculine pride, and his next queen, Esther, leads him around by the nose for the rest of the story. Mordechai the modest is honored by the king in a way ironically suggested by Haman, who hates him. The evil Haman gets the brunt of the saying "what goes around comes around", and finds himself on the business end of the gallows he built for Mordechai. As Jews and feminists and gays, we cheer these events from our hearts. Again and again, we have seen brave women stand up against loss of dignity and personhood. We have seen fearful, defensive, power-hungry people stir up trouble and try to make names for themselves by pointing a finger at some segment of the population, whether it be Jews, or gays, or hippies, or communists. How different from Haman is Anita Bryant, or Jerry Falwell? And how pleasant to see the good guys win fair and square, and the arrogant troublemaker ridiculed and punished! Who cares if it really happened or not? On Purim, we celebrate the way things ought to be.

— Leslie Bergson
Chair, Ritual Committee

The Jewish Gaily *Forward* is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, California 94101, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll, Irene Ogus and Leila Raim (editorial and production), Bart Benderoff, Allan Berenstein, Frank Hyman, David Shaber, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alan Schrager (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Cole Valley Graphics and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$10 per column inch with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads (for members only) are \$1.00 for up to 20 words, additional words at 5¢ each.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, PO Box 5640, San Francisco, California 94101, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

Members Fool Around

The Membership Committee invites you to 'fool' around on April 1st! Save the date... details to follow.

Mike's Column

A Letter to the *Bulletin*

THE FOLLOWING LETTER appeared in the *Jewish Bulletin* last month on February 3. The reply which follows was sent to the *Bulletin* for publication.

Gays "unnatural"

With reference to the article on Nadine Joseph "Jews in Crisis" (Bulletin Jan. 20) I would like to say that according to my opinion homosexuality is unnatural or to be more exact, it is against nature. I think that gay synagogues are unacceptable from the Jewish religious point of view, they are bad for the "Jewish reputation." Persons afflicted with homosexuality should be healed by trained psychologists in group therapy so to make it less expensive for them. I am convinced that a healing can take place for everyone, by changing his or her thinking, if there is a will and the determination for it. These Jewish homosexuals need to be healed and then they will feel comfortable in the Synagogue.

Herta R.

Building Committee Report

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE IS WRINGING ITS COLLECTIVE HANDS! You've had our First Priority Wish List for an entire month already and we haven't heard from you (with one or two lovable exceptions). Our Dedication Celebration is fast approaching and Sha'ar Zahav doesn't have a thing to wear!

So? Would it kill you to pick up the phone and call once in a while? Is it such an effort to write a letter? A post card even? You wouldn't be sorry, I can promise you!

Just so you shouldn't forget, here is another look at our First Priority Wish List. Questions and comments can be directed to David Gellman (621-2966). Donations to this fund should be made to David Stein (648-4818).

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Smoke and fire alarm system | \$1,500 -2,000 |
| Telephone installation (already donated) | 125 |
| Folding or stacking chairs (50) | 20 each |
| Six-foot folding tables (4) | 70 each |
| Interior paint (30 gallons) | 15 each |
| Exterior paint & labor | 7,500 (approx.) |
| Painting equipment | 250 |
| Aluminum step ladders (2) | 100 & 200 |
| Aluminum extension ladder | 150 |
| Window treatments (Oneg room) | 100 -250 each |
| Vacuum cleaner (already purchased) | 125 |
| Office space heater (already purchased) | 65 |
| Large bulletin boards (2) | 100 each |
| Blackboard | 230 |
| Outdoor ashtray | 35 |
| Table clothes | 200 |
| Laundry service (1 year) | 500 |

... And a Reply

Editor
Jewish Bulletin
San Francisco, Ca.

Dear Mr. Klein:

In the Feb. 3, 1984, edition of the *Bulletin*, there appeared a letter from Ms. Herta R. referring to gay people as "unnatural," needing of treatment (she recommends group therapy), and "bad for the Jewish reputation." I would like to reply in the form of an open letter to Ms. R., and I hope you'll publish it:

My Dear Herta:

I read your letter regarding homosexuals who are Jewish in the *Bulletin* last erev Shabbat. It made me sad, frustrated, and yes, I guess a little angry.

Herta, you are probably a perfectly nice person who cares very deeply for her family, and who would never purposely cause pain to another person. And I'll bet that if you heard someone refer to Jews as "persons afflicted with Jewish feelings and ideas" who are an embarrassment to Western society, and who should be encouraged to seek group therapy to be "cured of their Judaism," you would be the first to rush to the defense of our people. You would know that such statements reflect anti-Semitism, pure and simple. And you would know, as all of us know, that anti-Semitism is a symptom exhibited by people who fear or dislike those whose history and traditions and beliefs are different from their own. You are aware, as we all are, of the pain that the disease of anti-Semitism has caused our people.

But dear Herta, there is another form of "dislike of the unlike," and that is called homophobia. It is an unreasonable fear of, and dislike of, gay men and women, and I am afraid your letter was a classic example of it. A mild example, a simple expression of one person's opinion? Perhaps. But did you know that gay people were also placed in concentration camps by the Nazis? They were forced to wear lavender triangles, rather than yellow stars. And many of them died in the camps. So carried to their terrible extreme, anti-Semitism and homophobia have the same tragic results.

There is one bright spot in all this, and that is that homophobia can be treated, often eliminated, when those who feel uncomfortable with gay people get to know them as individuals, as friends, as members of their families who have always carried a secret they were unable to share.

I'd like you to get to know us. I'd like to have taken you to services with me this past Shabbat. We worship in a beautiful little 1907 Victorian synagogue. We've just bought it and we are enormously proud of it!

You'd have loved our choir, and the "joyful noise" we made, singing Shalom Aleichem, Hinei Ma Tov, Yidid Nefesh and Im Tirtzu, all the Shirim ha Tzion, the old songs of Zion, that you and I know so well. Our choir, of course, is all "amateur," all members of the Congregation. They are physicians and teachers, attorneys and crafts people, women and men who are respected in their profes-

(continued on page 6)

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Can you possibly believe that the events of the so-called Purim holiday ever happened?

Pugnacious in Piedmont

Dear Pugnacious,

Oy. Such a question to ask your Aunt Yente. Yente, you understand, is a very traditional, orthodox person, and she believes everything in the Bible is true. This seems silly to you? Better she should believe what she reads in the Chronicle, God forbid? For Aunt Yente, Purim celebrates the events in the Book of Esther, the Book of Esther is in the Bible, so it's true. End of discussion.'

Now you *could* ask, is there much historical proof that Purim happened. To this is answer is also easy. No.

To give you a for example, the Babylonians had a springtime festival celebrating the triumph of their god Marduk and their goddess Istar. That the Jews should come up with a springtime festival celebrating the triumph of their hero, Marduk-chai, and their heroine Estar (we're being phonetic here) is a little bit suspicious, no? Also, the famous historian, Heroditus, a contemporary of King Xerxes (who can believe these names — him we call Ahashuerus in the Purim story), fails to mention any of these mildly interesting events. You can imagine: *King's Prime Minister Hanged! Jews Told To Kill 75,000 Enemies!* Even the Chronicle would have a story, if only on an inside page. Heroditus does say that the Persian kings could choose a wife only from the top seven families of Persia, so Esther's marital status you would also have to worry about.

So why, you ask, does Aunt Yente believe? Better you should ask, what is not to believe. That enemies have tried to exterminate the Jews — that's doubtful? That the Jews have saved themselves by the bravery of their people, particularly their women — you should want to argue that? That a little help from Upstairs was also involved — that is impossible? Remember, we've been around four thousand years, which is not chopped liver.

So the the villain isn't Haman, but some other **** whose name begins with H; so the heroine isn't Esther, but Judith

or Deborah or Golda; is there not plenty of cause to nosh a hamentash, get a little tipsy, make some noise? You don't want to believe, so stay home, keep sober, and read your truth in the Chronicle. Feh.

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

So how come every time one of the religious nudnicks in the Congregation lights candles on Friday night, they wave their arms in the air and then cover their eyes? And then they usually light the candles first, and only later remember to say a blessing. Can't we get some more competent people to perform this service?

Strident in San Pablo

Dear Strident,

The blessing of the candles ushers in Shabbat, and for traditional Jews like your Aunt Yente, once Shabbat has begun, no fire can be kindled. So, once the blessing is said, it would violate Shabbat to light the candles. On the other hand, blessings are supposed to get said *before* the act is done (think of Hamotzi), so the blessing should come *before* the lighting. Oy! Such a problem. But with our usual logic, we Jews have found an answer. The candles are lit first, to avoid desecrating Shabbat; but then, when we say the blessing, we cover our eyes and pretend the candles aren't there. This way, after the blessing, the eyes can be opened and the candle flames enjoyed for the first time. The arms are spread out over the candles three times as a wish that the spirit of Shabbat should radiate out from the candles to fill the room, the family of Israel and the whole world.

And if you don't stop referring to Aunt Yente's friends as "religious nudnicks," Auntie will put castor oil in your hamentaschen.

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in the *Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Brotherhood B.Y.O.B.

NO. IT'S NOT A FRATERNITY BEER BUST. It's our own Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Brotherhood Kick-off Champagne *Bring Your Own Brunch* being held Sunday, March 11 at noon, at Allan Berenstein's home, 3370 21st Street in San Francisco, 550-7355.

Bring your favorite delicious brunch dish and a recipe to share with your Synagogue brothers.

The CSZ Brotherhood has sprung to life, fully-formed. Come on Sunday to help make this first event the start of something big for Sha'ar Zahav. For information, call Ron Gelb at 558-8278.

Dedication Weekend May 18th-20th

A weekend of dedication activities, so we may all celebrate the acquisition of "A Home Of Our Own", is being planned to include:

1. A special Friday night service
2. Saturday morning service and Shabbaton
3. A gala party
4. Dedication festivities Sunday afternoon.

Details are being worked out and will be reported in next month's issue.

Congregational Seder *(continued from page 1)*

meals. Also, kosher dinners, provided by the Kosher Nutrition Project, will be available upon request.

The kosher-style Seder will include matzoh ball soup, gefilte fish, roast chicken, vegetable, potato kugel, fresh fruit cup and macaroons. The vegetarian Seder meal will include soup, veggie frittata, potato kugel, fresh fruit cup and macaroons. Each table will also be provided with the traditional Seder plate, wine (and grape juice), candles and flowers.

The Ritual Committee will be leading a reading of CSZ's Hagadah, with the participation of many members of our Congregation. Members, friends and relatives are all invited to attend this joyous event in the life of the extended family that is Sha'ar Zahav.

Make your reservations now using the form found elsewhere in this issue of the *Forward*. The deadline for reservations is Thursday, April 12. Tickets are \$25.00 for members, \$30.00 for non-members and \$18.50 for children. Some financial subsidies are available (contact our Treasurer, David Stein, at 648-4818). We also welcome contributions to cover these subsidies. All tickets will be held for pickup at the door.

Plan on joining us at our Congregational Seder on April 17. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., and the Seder itself will start at 6:30. Individual seating is on a first come basis. Tables of eight may be reserved. For more information, please contact Co-chairs Nancy Meyer (282-8360) or Don Albert (826-0785).

Va'ad Report *(continued from page 2)*

begin advertising a salary range for the position. The committee will soon begin working on the interview process — what types of questions to ask the applicants, etc.

The Memorials Committee presented its plans for the honoring of donors to the building campaign. Several topics were referred back to the committee for further discussion, and eventual presentation to the President's Advisory Committee. At the next Va'ad meeting, final plans will be made for the presentation of honors to our generous supporters at the Dedications Weekend celebration.

On the Building Committee's agenda is the upcoming plan to paint the exterior of the building. The Va'ad voted to allocate \$5,200 for that purpose.

Thanks to the hard work of Allan Berenstein, the Congregation will have an emergency answering service between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. seven days a week, for the times when Susan is not in the office. Please see details elsewhere in the *Forward* for further information.

At 9:45 p.m., the Va'ad linked arms, formed a circle, and sang a hearty rendition of Oseh Shalom, ending a productive meeting. We'd like to have you join us for the next one, on Monday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Synagogue. Guests are welcome and encouraged. Come find out what your board is doing!

— Eric Keitel, Recorder

RESERVATION FORM CONGREGATIONAL SEDER Tuesday, April 17, 6 p.m. Golden Gateway Holiday Inn (Van Ness and Pine)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Please reserve the following number of places for:

_____ Members (at \$25.00 each)

_____ Non-members (at \$30.00 each)

_____ Children (at \$18.50 each)

as follows (indicate number of each):

_____ Kosher-style meals

_____ Kosher Nutrition Project meals

_____ Vegetarian meals

In addition, I wish to donate \$_____ toward Seder subsidies.

☐ I request that signing for the hearing impaired be provided.

☐ My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

☐ Please charge \$_____ to my Visa or MasterCard as follows:

Visa # _____ Exp. _____

MC # _____ Exp. _____

MC Interbank # (4 digits) _____

Signature: _____

Mail to Congregational Seder
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
P.O. Box 5640
San Francisco, CA 94101

All reservation forms must be received by Thursday, April 12.

Tickets will be held at the door under the name provided above.

Mike's Column (continued from page 3)

sions and honored in their communities — not at all an "embarrassment to the Jewish reputation." Quite the contrary.

And our prayers would have been familiar to you, too, except that we probably pay a little more attention to the beauty of the feminine aspects of G-D, the Shechina, than most congregations do.

We love to have visitors in our midst, especially family members. Last Shabbat the mother of one of the choir members was visiting from Brooklyn. She was called to the Bima to light the Shabbat candles with her son, and the Oneg Shabbat was given in her honor by her son and his lover. A wonderful simcha for her, for them, and for the whole Congregation.

The service co-leader (we don't have a rabbi yet) was a young executive and a member of the Va'ad. He is also a first class athlete, and has won awards in his city softball league. But he'd never led a service before, and was a little nervous. So members of his softball team, most of them non-Jewish, came to services to cheer him on. He did beautifully, and the team liked the warmth, the heimish yiddishkeit they found with us. Bad for the Jewish reputation? No, Herta, that night I think if anything we enhanced the Jewish reputation among the nations.

Please accept this as an invitation to visit with us any Shabbat. But if you're not quite ready for that, then stop by and say hello at the Jewish Federation Telethon March 4th. We'll have a large contingent there, doing our part for the larger Jewish community and Israel.

Or visit our booth in Stern Grove on Israeli Independence Day. We, too, celebrate the miracle of the rebirth of our people in our own land! Or march with us on the picket line in front of the Soviet Consulate. Having felt oppression ourselves, we insist — no, *demand* — that it end for all people.

Herta, our tradition teaches us that we are not to cut ourselves off from the community. We gay and lesbian Jews have heard that message, and we remain firmly and forever a part of Klal Israel, of the totality of the Jewish people. But it would be so much easier if the community did not at times seem to cut itself off from us. Be that as it may, we are, and we always will be, one people. And that means you and me, Herta, even if it does make both of us a little uncomfortable sometimes.

B'Shalom,

— Robert M. Rankin, M.D.
President, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

ATTORNEY

DAVID R. GELLMAN
(415) 621-2966

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45 Franklin St., San Francisco 94102

Reasonable Fees

Weekend & Evening
Appointments

Plan to join in Our Purim Celebration **MEGILLAH MADNESS II**

Saturday, March 17
8:00 p.m.

Swedish-American Hall
2174 Market Street

Havdalah & Ma'ariv Services
followed by

The CSZ Megillah Reading
Costumes

Booths & Games
Hamentaschen Bake-off
Food & Drink

Spring Blood Drive

NO BLOODY MARY JOKES PLEASE: On Saturday, March 10, the Women's Chavurah will be sponsoring CSZ's Spring Blood Drive at Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, preceded by a potluck Brunch at the home of Leila Raim and Catherine Wisniewski. According to tradition, our Sha'ar Zahav brothers will act as candy strikers and personal stereos will be available to aid the flow!

Brunch will be from 10 a.m. to noon. Last names beginning A-L, bring proteins; M-S, bring carbohydrates; and T-Z, bring beverages.

Blood donations will be made between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Shuttle service between Leila and Catherine's home and the Irwin Memorial will be available, if needed.

We hope to see many of you at Leila and Catherine's, 197 Beaumont Ave. (corner of Turk, one block east of Stanyan), and at the Blood Bank. It's a package deal: Come to both if possible. For more information, call the Synagogue office (861-6932).

Womens Chavurah Planning Meeting

You know all those wonderful Women's Chavurah events that are so enjoyable and so well attended? How does it all happen? What makes it possible? *The efforts of sisters together!* At our next meeting we will be planning for several future events. The events need sister-power to make them realities. *We need you! Yes! You!*

We are particularly short of sister-power on the Committee at this time. Please join with us and together we can make it all happen. Not only are the meetings productive working sessions... we manage to have a wonderful time as well.

Hope to see many of you at Nanci Stern's house, 4665 18th St., San Francisco on March 6, at 7:00 o'clock.

5744

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1984

MARCH

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|--|-------|---|
| | | | | 27 Adar I 1 | 28 2 | 29 3 |
| 30 4 Rosh Chodesh I JCF Telethon | 1 Adar II 5 Rosh Chodesh II | 2 6 Women's Chavurah 7pm 4665 18th | 3 7 Hebrew course 6:30pm | 4 8 Social Action Comm. 7pm | 5 9 | 6 10 Blood Drive 11am-1pm Newsletter Deadline |
| 7 11 Brotherhood BYOB noon 3370 21st | 8 12 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm | 9 13 | 10 14 Hebrew course 6:30pm | 11 15 Fast of Esther | 12 16 | 13 17 Megillah Madness II 8pm 2174 Market |
| 14 18 Purim | 15 19 Shushan Purim | 16 20 | 17 21 Hebrew course 6:30pm Newsletter Comm. 648-4818 | 18 22 Ritual Comm. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, #1705 | 19 23 | 20 24 |
| 21 25 | 22 26 Finance Comm. 5:30pm | 23 27 East Bay Lunch Group 451-1580 Newsletter Mailing 648-4818 | 24 28 Hebrew course 6:30pm | 25 29 | 26 30 | 27 31 |

March Ritual Calendar

Friday,
March 2
Shabbat Shekalim
Torah: Pekudei, Ex. 38:21-40:38
Special Torah Reading: Ex. 30:11-16
Special Haftarah: I Kings 12:1-17
Eric Keitel, Services

Friday,
March 9
Torah: Va-Yikra, Lev. 1:1-5:26
Haftarah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23
Steven Greenberg, Services

Friday,
March 16
Shabbat Zachor
Torah: Tzav, Lev. 6:1-8:36
Special Torah Reading: Deut. 25:17-19
Special Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2-34
Daniel Chesir, Services

Saturday,
March 17
Purim
Havdalah and Ma'ariv Services will precede our Purim Celebration (Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market)

Friday,
March 23
Shabbat Parah
Torah: Shemini, Lev. 9:1-11:47
Special Torah Reading: Num. 19:1-22
Special Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38
Paul Cohen, Services

Friday,
March 30
Shabbat Ha-Chodesh
Torah: Tazria, Lev. 12:1-13:59
Special Torah Reading: Ex. 12:1-20
Special Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18
Terry Rothchild, Services

April Ritual Preview

Friday,
April 6
Torah: Metzora, Lev. 14:1-15:33
Haftarah: II Kings, 7:3-20
John Funk, Services

Friday,
April 13
Shabbat Ha-Gadol
Torah: Acharei Mot, Lev. 16:1-18:30
Special Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24
Daniel Chesir, Services

Tuesday,
April 17
Second Seder Night
Sha'ar Zahav's Community Seder
(Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, Van Ness & Pine)

Services are held every Friday night at 8:15 at our new home, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

Rabbinic Job Description *(continued from page 1)*

tive to the new traditions we have created and will be expected to help us in involving new rituals, practices, and programs.

Although our rabbi's duties and involvements in this part-time position are hard to categorize, and may be somewhat modified in light of our rabbi's strengths and preferences, we have been able to identify four main areas of responsibilities which will constitute the most significant portion of our rabbi's duties: Spiritual Leadership; Counseling; Education; and Community Involvement. We elaborate upon these areas in the paragraphs that follow the outline.

Specific Duties

- I. Spiritual Leadership
 - Arbitor of Ritual Matters and congregational "halacha"
 - Member of the Ritual Committee
 - Life Cycle Ceremonies
 - Support of lay service leaders
 - Participation in liturgical development
 - Giving sermons and leading services
 - Attend all board and semi-annual congregational meetings
 - Monthly newsletter column
 - Maintain overview of congregational activities and provide guidance for synagogue programming
- II. Counseling and Pastoral Duties
 - Individual, couple, family, and group counseling as needed
 - Counsel and support to the sick and bereaved
 - Membership on Bikkur Cholim Committee
- III. Education
 - Teacher
 - Primarily adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation
 - Resource on education and Judaism
 - Membership on Education Committee
- IV. Community Involvement
 - Board of Rabbis
 - Rabbinical conferences
 - Liaison with gay/lesbian organizations
 - Liaison with community religious organizations
 - Spokesperson for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Spiritual Leadership

As in most synagogues, our rabbi will be our spiritual leader, will be a member of the ritual committee, and will be active in ritual matters. However, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is proud of its very capable and creative lay ritual leadership, and will not look to our rabbi to bear full responsibility for conducting services. The ritual committee has earned a reputation of providing excellent services on a consistent basis, while encouraging maximum participation from the congregation in leading services. We intend to continue this tradition, as well as enjoy services led by our rabbi. S/he will be expected to be present at most services and will participate in the development of new

liturgy and rituals to meet the needs of our congregation as it grows. His/her creativity and spiritual leadership will be an important asset in these areas. The rabbi will also participate in planning and conducting High Holy Day and other major holiday services. S/he will probably be called upon to perform uniting ceremonies for lesbian/gay couples, and for couples where one of the partners will not be Jewish. Some of our members are at various parts in the process of becoming Jews by choice, and our rabbi will be expected to work with them in this process.

Counseling and Pastoral Duties

Traditional rabbinic counseling will be an important part of the rabbi's role. Amongst other concerns, our rabbi will be particularly sought out by congregants troubled by questions of sexual identification and the integration of homosexuality with Judaism. We expect the rabbi to help congregants with these concerns attain a positive self-concept as Jewish gay men and lesbians. Advising couples in stress and offering support groups when the need arises may also become part of the rabbi's pastoral functioning. It is also important that the rabbi be familiar with local resources to make referrals for services he or she cannot provide. In addition to traditional pastoral duties (counsel and support to the sick and bereaved), the rabbi shall be a member of the Bikur Cholim committee.

Education

Our membership comes from a wide variety of educational backgrounds, and our educational program should meet the needs of all these groups. Our Education Committee has been reactivated and a program of classes has begun; as a member of our Education Committee, our rabbi's expertise and guidance in developing an Adult Education program, and his/her awareness of community educational resources will benefit the entire congregation.

Community Involvement

Our rabbi should be affiliated with established Jewish organizations in the Bay Area and nationally. Particularly, s/he should be a member of the Northern California Board of Rabbis, and the rabbinical association of her/his choice. S/he will be expected to represent our congregation at conferences and meetings, and to be a spokesperson for Sha'ar Zahav. S/he will undoubtedly be called upon to act as a liaison with various other community groups.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has a part-time support staff and an active Board of Directors (Va'ad) and Officers. Although the brunt of administrative duties and of the planning and execution of our activities will draw upon our leadership, our rabbi should be aware of what is going on in our congregation and help us to mold a calendar of programs that will suit our needs and goals.

Congregational By-Laws Available

Any member of the Congregation may obtain a copy of our By-Laws by making a request through the office.

Dates in Coming Months

Monday, April 9 – Va'ad Meeting
 Thursday, April 12 – Reservation Forms due for
 Congregational Seder
 Tuesday, April 17 – Congregational Seder (Second
 Seder) (Send in your Reservation Form now)
 Sunday, May 6 – Congregational Meeting and Elections
 Sunday, May 13 – Israeli Independence Day at Stern
 Grove
 Monday, May 14 – Va'ad Meeting
 Friday, May 18 through Sunday, May 20 – Building
 Dedication Weekend

Magnes Museum Graphic Show

How many of you have visited the Judas L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley. Now is a good time to visit, since this month a show entitled "The Jewish Experience in Prints and Drawings" is at the Museum. The exhibition features 63 works from the Magnes Museum's collection of over 2,000 graphic works by Jewish artists from Europe, the U.S. and Israel. Take this opportunity both to see this show and to become acquainted with this major Jewish museum — located at 2911 Russell Street in Berkeley, open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday through Friday, holidays excepted. Contact the Museum for more detailed information (849-2710).

Letters

Dear Friends:

For the past several years I have been receiving a copy of The Jewish Gaily Forward, and I have thoroughly enjoyed following your activities. It is particularly rewarding to see some of the names of your members with whom I became acquainted at the time of attending the annual World Conference meetings in San Francisco, Philadelphia and Los Angeles. It has been exciting to read of your search for a permanent home for Sha'ar Zahav. I wish you the best of "mazel" in your new home. Enclosed is a check to help your fund raising.

I would also like to notify you of my address change. Recently, I moved from Fort Wayne, Indiana, where we had a Chavurah for gay and lesbian Jews, to South Padre Island, Texas where my lover and I intend to operate a guesthouse.

The thing that I miss the most in this area is the absence of Jewish lesbians and gay people. The closest synagogue is in Houston — some three to four hundred miles from here. I wonder if your members are able to appreciate how fortunate they are to have a place to call home, right in their own community.

If you will, I would appreciate being kept on your mailing list. My new address is: Donald L. Marx, P.O. Box 2326, South Padre Island, TX 78597.

I would also like to compliment the editors of your bulletin. The feeling expressed therein is so upbeat that it is exciting just to read. It sounds as if you are doing so many of the things that an effective synagogue should be doing.

Fondly,
 Don Marx

Hamentaschen Bake-off

So what would Purim be without Hamentaschen? Among the events planned for our Purim celebration, Megillah Madness II, is our Annual Hamentaschen Bake-off. For those of you who have been waiting all year, this is your chance to show off your culinary cleverness, to bake up a storm, to fill your kitchens with wonderful aromas, to show off your stuff and maybe even win a prize. So whether your mother's (or your father's) Hamentaschen were yeast or cookie dough, filled with mun, prunes, or apricots, this is your chance to show them off. Bring a dozen to Megillah Madness II on Saturday evening, March 17, Swedish American Hall. Entries will be judged on the basis of taste, appearance and creativity.

So, other than no oven, there's no excuse for not entering. In case your mother never would give you her recipe, use someone else's mother's recipe! And here's one from Allan Berenstein's mother (with a choice of fillings even):

HAMENTASCHEN

Yeast Dough

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 cakes yeast | 3/4 cups sugar |
| 1/4 cup lukewarm water | 1-1/2 tsp. salt |
| 3/4 cups scalded milk, cooled | 3 eggs |
| 5 cups flour | 1 cup butter |

Soften yeast in water for 5 minutes, then add to milk. Stir in 2 cups of flour, the sugar and the salt. Add 1 egg at a time, beating after adding each. Beat in the butter and remaining flour. Knead for a few minutes, then place in a bowl; cover with a towel and place in a warm place until the dough has doubled in volume. Punch down and knead on a lightly floured board for 5 minutes. Divide dough in half and roll out to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into 4-inch squares. Place a heaping tablespoon of filling on each and fold the dough over into a triangle. Seal the edges. Let rise until doubled in bulk and brush with beaten egg yolk.

Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes, or until browned.

Makes about 3-1/2 dozen.

Poppy Seed Filling

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 cups poppy seeds | 1 tsp. lemon rind, grated |
| 2 cup milk | 1/2 cup seedless raisins |
| 3/4 cup honey | |

Have poppy seeds ground or put through food chopper. Combine with milk and honey. Cook over low heat, stirring frequently, until thick. Stir in lemon rind and raisins. Cool and fill dough.

Prune Filling

| |
|--------------------------------|
| 2 cups prune butter |
| 1/2 cup ground almonds |
| 1 Tblsp. grated orange rind |

Mix together and fill dough.

Gay?

Jewish?

Not a member of Sha'ar Zahav?

A SCHANDE!

To receive a membership application, simply request one by phoning the Sha'ar Zahav office at 861-6932, write to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101, or pick one up at services, every Friday night at 8:15 at our new home, 220 Danvers at Caselli.

March Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|
| 5 | Ed Pollock | 23 | Suzy Ganz |
| 6 | Naomi Baran | 23 | Chris Knepper |
| 9 | James Dobkins | 25 | Ric Bornstein |
| 10 | Dana Vinicoff | 29 | Bart Benderoff |
| 11 | Jessie Lee Ap'Neva | 29 | Harold Parker |
| 14 | Carol Fiul | 30 | Susan Greenspan |
| 19 | Rachel Wahba | 31 | Barbara Collier |
| 21 | Larry Cohen | | |

March Yahrzeits

| | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Fannie Leiss, Mother of Walt Leiss |
| 11 | Hannah Goodman, Aunt of Eric Keitel |
| 16 | John Frenkel, Grandfather of Robert Mackey |
| 16 | Ariel Thal, Father of Sam Thal |
| 20 | (16 Adar II) Joseph M. Cohen, Father of Paul Cohen |
| 20 | Minnie Tonn, Grandmother of Allen Gold |
| 22 | Sylvia Vogel, Mother of Lee Vogel |
| 27 | James Robert Rankin, Father of Mike Rankin |
| 30 | Abraham Kremer, Grandfather of Steve Cronewalt |

Classified Ads

GUITAR LESSONS: Learn to play what you hear around you and inside you. Learn songs, music theory and improvisation — painlessly. All levels. Have fun! I love to teach! Suzanne P. Shanbaum, 261-0791.

ROOMATE WANTED: 2 bedroom apt. near Buena Vista Park. Great view, sundeck, fireplace, washer/dryer, d/w. \$350 + util. Larry Chandler, 621-6764.

NON-SEXIST (yet traditional) PASSOVER HAGADAH, *The Telling*, in Hebrew, English, and transliteration. Beautifully illustrated. \$4.00 or send SASE for brochure: Hagadah — Dept. K., P.O. Box 3094, Oakland, CA 94609.

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of January, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

- Jan. 6 – Al Baum, in honor of Robert Alfonsi and Alain Guillon, friends visiting from France
- Jan. 13 – Nanci Stern, Joane Taylor, Dana Vinicoff and Joanne Woolf, in honor of Yo Schneeman's birthday
- Jan. 20 – The Va'ad, in honor of Tu B'Shvat

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Larry Cohen at an Oneg or call him at 493-0535 or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$30-40 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.



CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, California
(415) 861-6932

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101

Officers: President, Mike Rankin; Treasurer, David Stein; Recorder, Eric Keitel

Va'ad (Board) Members: Don Albert, Allan Berenstein, Alex Ingersoll, Ron Lezell, Mark Mendelow, Nancy Meyer, Leila Raim, Jerry Rosenstein, Sharyn Saslafsky

Committee Coordinator: Mike Freedland

Committee Chairs: Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus; Building, David Gellman; Bylaws, David Gass; Education, Joanne Woolf; Elections, Betty Kalis; Finance, Tom Rothgiesser; Membership, Allan Berenstein; Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll; Oneg, Larry Cohen; Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky; Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper/Leila Raim; Ritual, Leslie Bergson; Social Action, Ron Lezell; Women's Chavurah, Chair shared by committee.

Office Manager: Susan Greenspan (Office is open Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.) **Emergency Number:** At other times the Congregation can be contacted in an emergency situation by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.